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THE WALKING DEAD™

DELUXE

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ANTERIORMENTE:
Afortunadamente, el traje antidisturbios de Glenn impidió que una bala le matara, pero los hombres del Gobernador no tuvieron tanta suerte en el tiroteo posterior. En la prisión, Dale y Billy salieron a extraer más gasolina para el generador antes del parto de Lori, pero les atacaron los caminantes en la oscuridad.

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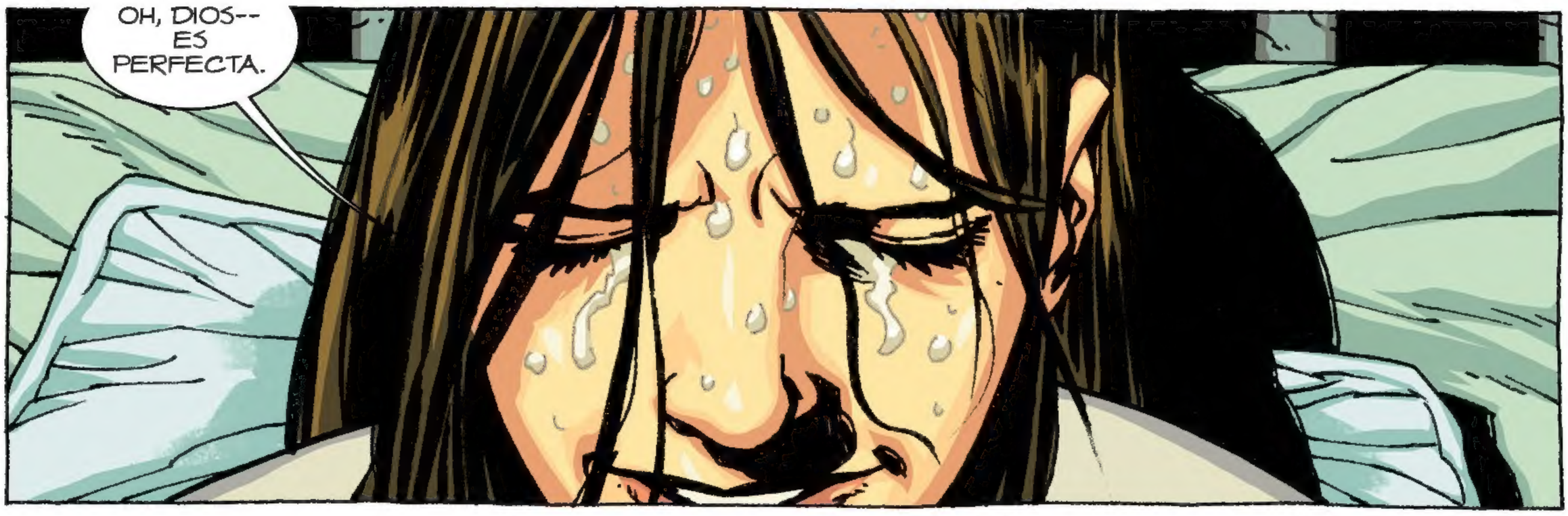
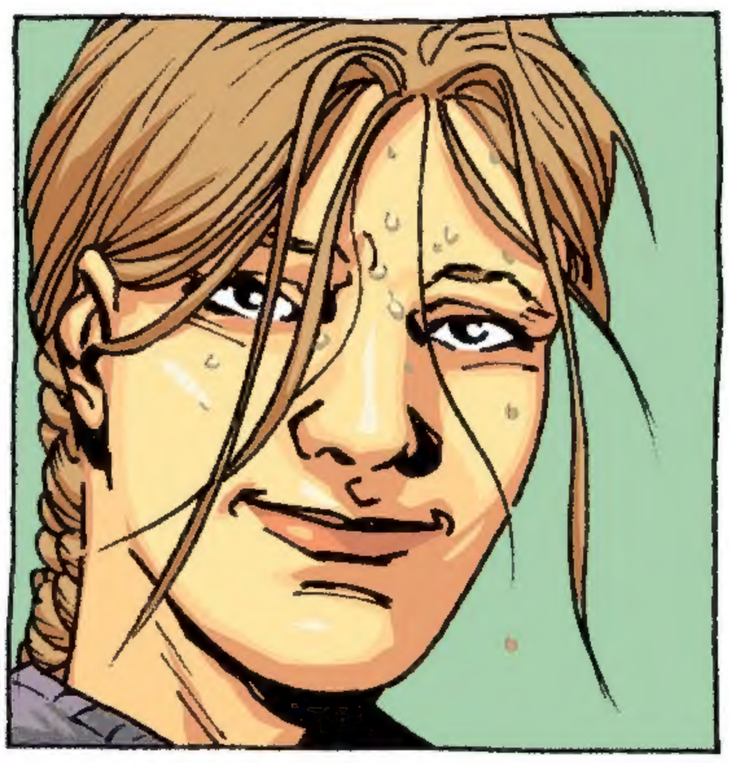
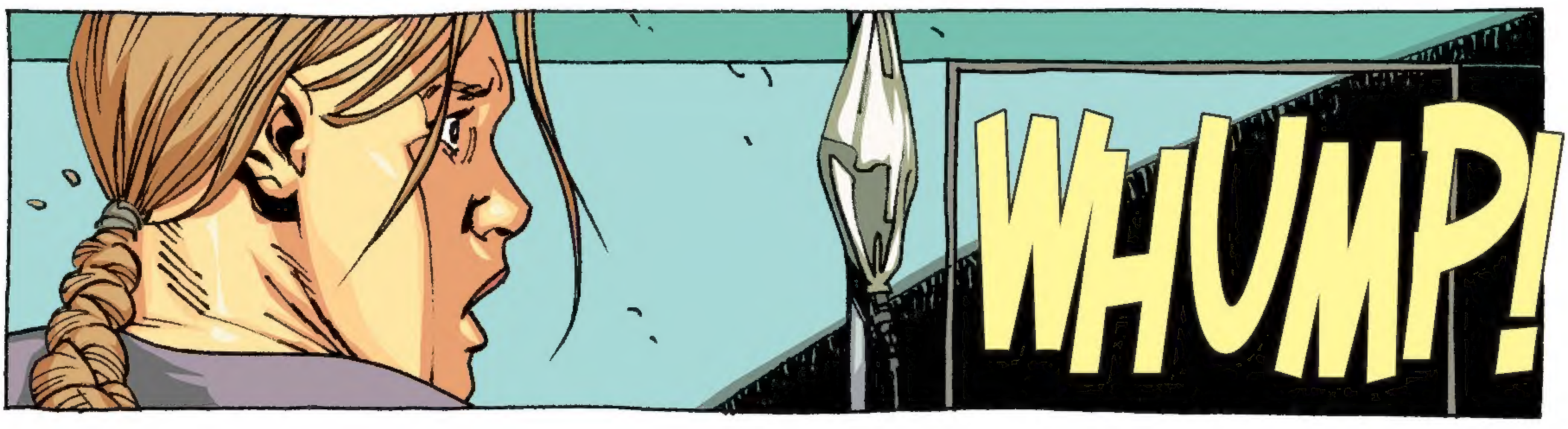

OH, DIOS-- ES PERFECTA.

ES SENCILLAMENTE *PERFECTA.*




WHUMP!

¡AYUDA!

¡NECESITO AYUDA!

¡OH, DIOS MÍO!

¿BILLY? ¡¿DÓNDE ESTÁ *BILLY*?!

ESTÁ LLENANDO EL TANQUE DEL GENERADOR-- ESTÁ *BIEN.*

¡¿LE HAN *MORDIDO?!* ¿QUÉ ESPERAS QUE *HAGA* YO?

¿NO *MATÓ* ESO A ALLEN?

¿QUÉ TE HACE PENSAR QUE FUNCIONARÁ *AHORA?*

¡ESPERO QUE LE SALVES LA VIDA!

¡PUEDES AMPUTARLE LA PIERNA ANTES DE QUE SE EXTIENDA LA INFECCIÓN!

CORTARLE LA PIERNA A ALLEN *NO* LE MATÓ--FUE LA INFECCIÓN O LA PÉRDIDA DE SANGRE-- O *AMBAS COSAS.*

¡ALICE PUEDE HACERLO *COMO ES DEBIDO!* PUEDE SALVARLE LA VIDA. ELLA ME CURÓ LA MANO, EVITÓ QUE *ME* MURIERA DESANGRADO.

PODEMOS HACERLO, PERO SE TIENE QUE HACER *AHORA,* ANTES DE QUE SE EXTIENDA LA INFECCIÓN.

¡YA LO HAS OÍDO! ¡HAZLO *YA!*

¡CÓR-TALE EL PIE!

HAZLO-- HAZLO DE UNA VEZ.

HAZLO-- YA...

NO ESTOY PREPARADA PARA ESTO.

¡ENTONCES ENCÁRGATE DE CURARLE *DESPUÉS!*

¡QUE ALGUIEN LE HAGA UN TORNIQUETE A LA PIERNA!

YO ME OCUPO.

GRACIAS, AXEL. ALICE, PREPARA TODO LO QUE NECESITES PARA CURARLE Y CERRAR LA HERIDA CUANDO YO HAYA TERMINADO.

QUE ALGUIEN LE *SUJETE.*

¡UNGH!

SKKKRGH!

¡IRK!

¡NGG!

¡ACK!

¡DALE! ¡OH, DIOS!

¡¿RESPIRA?!

SÍ, RESPIRA. ESTÁ BIEN.

SOLO HA PERDIDO EL CONOCI-MIENTO.

YA ESTÁ.

TODO TUYO.

VALE--TENEMOS QUE DETENER LA HEMORRAGIA-- ¡YA! HERSHEL-- TRÁEME MÁS TOALLAS.

¡NECESITO MÁS *PINZAS!* QUE ALGUIEN ME LAS ENCUENTRE. ¡HAY QUE DARSE PRISA!

ESTE MUNDO...

ESTE PUTO MUNDO...

...

CREO QUE DEBERÍAMOS LLAMARLA *JUDITH.*

¿CREÉIS QUE HAY *BASTANTE,* CHICOS? NI SIQUIERA SÉ POR QUÉ HE HECHO UN HUERTO--CON LA COMIDA QUE HABÉIS TRAÍDO--*NO* NOS HARÁ FALTA.

A LO MEJOR TÚ PREFIERES COMER DE UNA LATA. ¿YO? ME MUERO POR PROBAR UNO DE ESOS TOMATES FRESCOS.

Y QUE LO DIGAS.

MENUDA NOCHECITA LA DE AYER, ¿EH? ¿ME SIGUES?

SÍ--UN POCO.

¿ALGUIEN SABE ALGO NUEVO SOBRE DALE? ¿ESTÁ *BIEN?*

ME PASÉ HACE MEDIA HORA Y SEGUÍA DORMIDO--PERO ALICE DICE QUE ESTÁ BIEN HASTA DONDE PUEDE DECIR.

CREO QUE ELLA Y ANDREA NO HAN DORMIDO NADA... LE HAN ESTADO VIGILANDO.

DIOS, ME SIENTO TAN MAL POR ANDREA... ESPERO QUE DALE SALGA DE ESTA.

SÍ.

¿CUÁNDO PODRÉ *VERLO?*

¿JUDITH?

YA TE HE DICHO QUE ES UNA *NIÑA*, CARL. PUEDES REFERIRTE A ELLA EN FEMENINO O COMO "*LA BEBÉ*" O TAMBIÉN "*JUDITH.*"

CREO QUE ASÍ ES COMO VAMOS A LLAMAR A TU HERMANA.

JUDITH... ME GUSTA.

¿CUÁNDO PODRÉ CONOCERLA?

CUANDO SE DESPIERTE, HIJO. TE HAS LEVANTADO TARDE Y TU MADRE Y TU HERMANA SE HAN IDO A DORMIR JUSTO ANTES DE QUE TE DESPERTARAS.

¿PUEDES PASARME ESA VARILLA? CREO QUE ES LO QUE SOSTIENE LOS LADOS DE LA CUNA.

¿NO ESTÁS SEGURO?

¿NO PUEDES LEER LAS INSTRUCCIONES?

PODRÍA SI NO ESTUVIERA A TOPE DE TESTOSTERONA Y ESTUPIDEZ. PERO, ¿Y QUÉ GRACIA TIENE ESO?

PARTE DE LA DIVERSIÓN ESTÁ EN AVERIGUARLO. *¿VERDAD?*

BUENO, ¿CÓMO TE FUE ANOCHE? ¿LO PASASTE BIEN CON CAROL, SOPHIA Y LOS GEMELOS?

MUY BIEN... FUE *DIVERTIDO.*

PERO CAROL LLORA MUCHO POR LA NOCHE.

ES TRISTE.

TODO PARECE CORRECTO. ESTÁ BIEN. SOLO ESTÁ *DURMIENDO.* CREO QUE TODO VA A SALIR BIEN. NO PERDIÓ MUCHA SANGRE.

EL BEBÉ, ESTO, VENDARLE LAS COSTILLAS A GLENN... MENUDA NOCHE.

YA.

UNGH... HEY.

¿AÚN SIGO VIVO?

OH, MIERDA-- LO SIENTO, DALE. NO TE QUERÍA DESPERTAR.

TRANQUILA--SOLO ESTÁS HACIENDO TU TRABAJO. CREO QUE YA HE DESCANSADO BASTANTE. ME-- ME SIENTO *BIEN.*

OS, *AH...* DEJARÉ A SOLAS.

¿ANDREA?

TRANQUILA, CARIÑO.

ME SIENTO BIEN. VOY A PONERME BIEN. TÚ NO TE PREOCUPES POR MÍ.

¡¿PERO QUÉ COÑO TE PASA?!

¡ERES UN *HOMBRE MAYOR, MALDITA SEA!* ¡ERES *LENTO!* ¡*Y DÉBIL!*

¡¿EN QUÉ *COÑO* ESTABAS *PENSANDO?!*

¡NO ERES UN *HÉROE!* ¡NO TIENES QUE *DEMOSTRAR* NADA! ¡ERES UN *VIEJO INÚTIL Y PATÉTICO!*

¡PATÉTICO!

¡INÚTIL!

OH, DIOS.

OH, DIOS...

LO SÉ...

SÉ QUE TENÍAS MIEDO.

LO SIENTO.

TE QUIERO.

NOS HA PARECIDO OÍR QUE ESTABAS ANDANDO POR LA HABITACIÓN, DESPIERTA.

AQUÍ HAY ALGUIEN BASTANTE ANSIOSO POR CONOCER A SU NUEVA HERMANITA.

PUES PASAD. ESTÁ COMIENDO EN ESTE MOMENTO, PERO PODÉIS VERLA.

¿ESTÁS SEGURA?

NO VOY A ESCONDERME CADA DOS POR TRES DURANTE LOS TRES PRÓXIMOS MESES. TENDRÁ QUE VERLO. NO PODEMOS EVITARLO.

ES ALGO *NATURAL*.

¿DE QUÉ ESTÁIS *HABLANDO*?

ESTA ES TU HERMANITA, CARL. ¿QUÉ TE PARECE?

ES TAN *PEQUEÑA*... Y MONA.

MUY MONA.

ME GUSTA.

PUES--ES BUENO SABERLO. DIME, ¿NOS AYUDARÁS A MANTENERLA A SALVO?

¿NOS AYUDARÁS A CUIDAR DE ELLA?

SÍ, LO PROMETO.

TIENE SUERTE. ELLA CREERÁ QUE TODO ES NORMAL. NO SABRÁ QUE TODO ESTÁ MUY MAL-- NI COMO *ERAN* LAS COSAS ANTES.

NO ESTARÁ *ASUSTADA* TODO EL RATO

ESTOY SUDANDO LA GOTA GORDA AQUÍ. ¿ME SIGUES?

SEGÚN EL CALENDARIO DE ANDREA--SI ES QUE SIGUE SIENDO DEL TODO PRECISO... ESTAMOS A PRINCIPIOS DE JULIO.

AUNQUE A MÍ ME PARECE *AGOSTO.*

ESTO PARECE EL *INFIERNO.*

NO BANALICES EL LAGO DE FUEGO, CHICO. EL CALOR DE HOY *DISTA MUCHO* DE LA SITUACIÓN MÁS DOLOROSA QUE PUEDAS IMAGINAR.

NO ES UN CHISTE, BILLY. NO TIENE GRACIA. NO QUIERO QUE UN HIJO *MÍO* BROMEE CON ALGO ASÍ.

¿ENTENDIDO?

AH, S-SÍ, PAPÁ.

LO SIENTO.

OH, ¿YA ESTÁS DESPIER-TA?

SÍ, HA SONADO MI "ALARMA."

EH, NI SIQUIERA LA HE *OÍDO.*

ESTE CALOR ESTÁ ***MATÁNDOME.*** ME SORPRENDE HABERME DESPERTADO. ¿TE ACUERDAS DEL AIRE ACONDICIONADO? UNAS CUANTAS SEMANAS COMO ESTA Y SE ME HABRÁN DERRETIDO TODOS MIS RECUERDOS DEL CEREBRO.

HOY CUMPLE DOS SEMANAS. ¿PUEDES *CREERLO?*

DOS SEMANAS YA.

TAMBIÉN LO HABÍA OLVIDADO. LO RÁPIDO QUE PASA EL PRIMER AÑO. ANTES DE QUE NOS DEMOS CUENTA, ESTARÁ CORRIENDO POR AQUÍ.

ESPEREMOS QUE TODO EL AÑO VAYA TAN BIEN COMO HAN IDO ESTAS ÚLTIMAS SEMANAS.

ELLA NO ES COMO CARL.

NO SE PARECE ***NADA*** A CARL. ESTA CHIQUITINA ES ***GENIAL.*** PERO, EN SERIO... ME REFIERO A LO TRANQUILAS QUE ESTÁN LAS COSAS ÚLTIMAMENTE, EN ***GENERAL.***

NO HA MUERTO ***NADIE.***

=AINS=

OH, ESTÁS DESPIERTO. ESTABA EN LA PUERTA DE AL LADO HABLANDO CON CAROL. TENGO UNA--

DALE, ¿ESTÁS *BIEN?*

SUEÑO TODAS LAS NOCHES. ES LA ÚNICA VÍA DE ESCAPE ***REAL*** QUE TENGO DE ESTE INFIERNO. NO TENGO PESADILLAS--SINO ***SUEÑOS.*** PASAN COSAS BUENAS. ES GENIAL.

EN MIS SUEÑOS AÚN TENGO DOS PIERNAS Y TODO HA VUELTO A LA NORMALIDAD. NI SIQUIERA PARECE RARO. MIENTRAS ESTOY SOÑANDO, NUNCA PIENSO PARA MIS ADENTROS, "*¿NO ME FALTA PARTE DE UNA PIERNA?*"

ES ALGO ***NORMAL.***

ASÍ QUE TODOS LOS DÍAS... TODOS LOS SANTOS DÍAS, ME DESPIERTO Y MIRO HACIA ABAJO Y LO RECUERDO.

ES COMO SI ACABARA DE OCURRIR CADA MAÑANA.

¡MALDITA SEA! ¡TERMINA CON ESA MIERDA! YO NO HE PEDIDO TU COMPASIÓN. SOLO INTENTABA ABRIRME.

DIOS. AHORA AYÚDAME A SUBIR A LA SILLA DE RUEDAS DE ALICE PARA QUE PUEDA MEAR EN UN BOTE.

A PROPÓSITO DE ESO-- TENGO UNA SORPRESA PARA TI.

¡TA-CHÁN!

LAS ENCONTRÉ ANOCHE, PERO YA ESTABAS DORMIDO Y NO QUISE DESPERTARTE.

EN CUANTO MEJORES TU EQUILIBRIO-- PODRÁS HACER PIS DIRECTAMENTE EN EL RETRETE.

REALMENTE LO QUE *IMPORTA* EN LA VIDA SON LAS PEQUEÑAS COSAS...

LAS *ESCALERAS* SEGUIRÁN SIENDO UN GRANO EN EL CULO-- PERO ESTO ES UN PASO EN LA DIRECCIÓN CORRECTA.

DESDE LUEGO. AHORA AYÚDAME A SUBIR A ESTAS COSAS. CON ALGO DE SUERTE, PODRÉ VER TUS CLASES DE TIRO DESDE UNA POSICIÓN VERTICAL.

MI DOLORIDO TRASERO TE LO AGRA-DECE.

RICK, ¡OH, RICK! ¿QUÉ ESTÁS *HACIENDO?*

¿NO SABES QUE NADIE TE RECONOCERÁ SIN LA BARBA? HACÍA SIGLOS QUE NO TE AFEITABAS--ESTABAS EMPEZANDO A PARECER UN TIPO DURO. NO LO HAGAS, TÍO.

DEBO HACERLO, HACE DEMASIADO CALOR.

DENTRO DE POCO TAMBIÉN TE PASARÁS ESO POR LA PARTE SUPERIOR DE TU CABEZA.

A VER-- TAMBIÉN PODRÍAS RAPARTE, ¿NO? ¿POR QUÉ DETENERSE EN LA CARA?

PARA EMPEZAR, NO ME APETECE QUEMARME LA CABEZA CON EL SOL. LE DI *MI* SOMBRERO A MI HIJO HACE TIEMPO.

ES POCO PROBABLE QUE SE DESPRENDA DE ÉL A CORTO PLAZO. ADEMÁS, ME GUSTA MI PELO, ASÍ QUE AGUANTARÉ UN POCO MÁS. PUEDE QUE ME CORTE EL PELO SI DOY CON ALGUIEN QUE SEPA HACERLO...

TÚ TE LO PIERDES.

¿CÓMO TE TRATA LA VIDA DE CASADO?

ES ESTUPENDO. EN SERIO, LO ES. ES LO *MEJOR* QUE ME HA PASADO EN LA VIDA.

SOY TAN FELIZ, ES... ES SIMPLEMENTE *GENIAL.*

DALE TIEMPO...

¿SE PORTÓ BIEN ANOCHE?

OH, SE PORTÓ GENIAL. TÚ Y RICK HICISTEIS UN GRAN TRABAJO CON ÉL.

GRACIAS... Y ***GRACIAS.*** HAS SIDO DE GRAN AYUDA, CON EL BEBÉ Y TODO ESO... ES GENIAL TENERTE POR AQUÍ PARA VIGILAR A CARL DE VEZ EN CUANDO.

NOS VAMOS A JUGAR AL PASILLO, MAMÁ.

ESTOY ENCANTADA DE HACERLO. SOPHIA QUIERE MUCHO A CARL-- SE LLEVAN COMO HERMANOS. ES BUENO PARA ELLA TENERLO CERCA.

PARA QUE NO ESTÉ *SOLA.*

CAROL, ¿ESTÁS BIEN?

POR SUPUESTO QUE SÍ. ¿POR QUÉ NO IBA A ESTARLO? ESTOY ESTUPENDAMENTE, LORI.

ESTOY BIEN. EN SERIO.

SIENTO QUE NOS HAYAMOS DISTANCIADO. ESTÁBAMOS MUY UNIDAS HASTA HACE POCO. ES QUE CON EL BEBÉ Y LOS ÚLTIMOS MESES DE EMBARAZO...

SIENTO QUE NO HAYAMOS TENIDO TANTO TIEMPO PARA HABLAR.

CLARO.

ABAJO HAY UNA CAJA DE CEREALES RANCIOS CON NUESTRO NOMBRE ESCRITO. VAMOS A BUSCAR A LOS NIÑOS.

¿QUIERES QUE DESAYUNEMOS JUNTAS?

¿DE VERDAD NECESITAS ESTO? LLEVAS **AÑOS** DISPARANDO ARMAS, ¿NO ES ASÍ?

NO HE HECHO OTRA COSA QUE DEDICARME A PLANTAR, CULTIVAR Y COSECHAR DURANTE LOS DOS ÚLTIMOS MESES. ASÍ QUE TENGO LA PUNTERÍA UN POCO OXIDADA.

ME VENDRÁ BIEN PRACTICAR TODO LO QUE ***PUEDA.***

VAS MUY BIEN. YA CASI LO TIENES.

BLAM!

SÍ, UN PAR DE SEMANAS MÁS DE ***PRÁCTICA*** Y PODRÉ DISPARAR A UNA LATA SIEMPRE QUE PUEDA TOMARME MI TIEMPO PARA ***APUNTAR.***

¿ME REPITES CÓMO VA A AYUDARME ESTO? NO VAN A ATACARNOS ***LATAS*** INMÓVILES ¿VERDAD?

SOLO NOS QUEDA ESPERAR.

ESTO ES ÚTIL. TE ESTAS FAMILIARIZANDO CON UN ARMA, SINTIÉNDOTE CÓMODO AL DISPARARLA. ESTO TE FACILITARÁ DARLE A OBJETIVOS EN ***CUALQUIER*** SITUACIÓN.

SIGUE ASÍ.

PTING!

BUEN TIRO, BILLY. ¿ERA A LA QUE ESTABAS APUNTADO?

SÍP. LO ERA. TE LO PROMETO.

BIEN.

PTING!

¡HAH! ¡OTRA!

¡YA VAN ***SEIS!*** ¡ESTOY EN RACHA!

MUY BIEN, MAGGIE. BUEN TRABAJO.

¿PUEDES ENSEÑARLE A TYREESE COMO LO HAS HECHO?

CIERRA EL PICO.

ESTAS DOS COSAS EN LA PARTE POSTERIOR DEL ARMA--ALINÉALAS PARA QUE VEAS ESA COSITA EN LA PARTE DELANTERA DEL ARMA ENTRE ELLAS--ESE ES TU PUNTO DE MIRA... LUEGO PON LO QUE QUIERAS DISPARAR DELANTE DE *ÉL*... Y DISPARA.

TU COMPLETA FALTA DE CONFIANZA REALMENTE AYUDA MUCHO. EN SERIO. SIGUE ASÍ.

BLAM!

ME HAS DADO BALAS NORMALES, *¿VERDAD?* SE SUPONE QUE DEBERÍA DARLE A *ALGO* DE VEZ EN CUANDO.

PRUEBA A LANZAR EL ARMA. TAL VEZ *ESO* FUNCIONE.

APRIETA EL GATILLO SUAVEMENTE--SIN MOVIMIENTOS BRUSCOS.

ESO ES.

VAYA, ¡UN MOMENTO!

DALE-- ¡ESPERA!

¡DEJA QUE TE AYUDE!

FWUMP!

¿SABES? DESPUÉS DE DOS SEMANAS EN ESA SILLA DE RUEDAS, PENSABA QUE NO QUERRÍA VOLVER A SENTARME ***NUNCA MÁS.*** PERO TE SORPRENDERÍA LO QUE PUEDE DOLERTE EL PIE CUANDO NO PUEDES DISTRIBUIR EL PESO.

¿TE SIENTES BIEN?

¿TE REFIERES A SI ME VOY A ***MORIR?*** NO LO CREO. ALLEN ESTUVO POSTRADO EN LA CAMA TODO EL TIEMPO HASTA QUE MURIÓ. CREO QUE ESTOY ***BIEN.***

¿POR QUÉ CARL YA NO APRENDE A DISPARAR? CUANDO SHANE Y TÚ HACÍAIS ESTO EN EL CAMPAMENTO-- PARTICIPABA.

ENTONCES LAS COSAS ERAN DIFERENTES--MÁS PELIGROSAS. AQUÍ, CON LAS VALLAS, TODO PARECE MÁS SEGURO. LA VERDAD ES QUE NO NECESITA LLEVAR UN ARMA... NI SABER DISPARAR.

HEMOS PENSADO QUE SERÍA MEJOR DEJARLE SER UN NIÑO UN POQUITO MÁS. QUIÉN SABE CUÁNTO TIEMPO DURARÁ ESTO.

ESTA MALDITA PRISIÓN ME HA COSTADO UN PIE.

TE ESCONDES DETRÁS DE ESTAS VALLAS DURANTE TANTO TIEMPO... ***VIENDO*** LO QUE HAY AHÍ FUERA, PERO SIN ***ESTARLO***... SIN TENER QUE SOBREVIVIR ***CON*** LOS CAMINANTES. AL FINAL, OLVIDAS CÓMO SON LAS COSAS.

ÚNICAMENTE VES LO LENTOS QUE SON--PERO OLVIDAS LO PELIGROSOS QUE PUEDEN SER--LO ***FÁCIL*** QUE LES RESULTA ATRAPARTE.

HABÍA ***OLVIDADO*** POR COMPLETO LO QUE ERA ESTAR AHÍ FUERA. Y CASI ***ME MATAN.***

LO ESTÁS LLEVANDO BIEN.

TODO ES RELATIVO. ESTAR ENFADADO POR HABER PERDIDO UN PIE Y ESTAR A PUNTO DE MORIR--O ESTAR AGRADECIDO POR ***SOLO*** HABER PERDIDO UN PIE Y ***NO*** HABER MUERTO.

HE ESCOGIDO LO SEGUNDO.

A FIN DE CUENTAS, HEMOS PASADO UN ***GRAN*** MES. PARECE QUE LAS COSAS SE ESTÁN CALMANDO. TENEMOS QUE PREOCUPARNOS POR LOS LOCOS DE WOODBURY, PERO QUIÉN SABE LO QUE PASARÁ CON ***ESO.***

AL MARGEN DE ESO, GLENN HA SOBREVIVIDO A UN ***TIRO.*** TODO EL GRUPO VOLVIÓ CON PROVISIONES Y MUNICIÓN SUFICIENTE PARA ESTAR BIEN ABASTECIDOS DURANTE UNA BUENA TEMPORADA. TU HIJA NACIÓ SIN COMPLICACIONES Y ESTÁ ***SALIENDO ADELANTE.***

HE SOBREVIVIDO A UN MORDISCO-- ALGO QUE, HASTA LA FECHA, NO HABÍA CONSEGUIDO ***NADIE.***

SI LO EXPONES ASÍ, TIENES RAZÓN-- LAS COSAS ***VAN*** BIEN.

OH, SÍ...

LAS COSAS VAN ***BIEN.*** TODO ES ***GENIAL.***

AHORA VAMOS A VER CUÁNTO ***DURA.***

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Hi readers, welcome back to another Letter Hacks! Amanda here. #40 seems to be one of those "exhale" issues, that give us a moment to breathe. Dale survived, Lori and Carol are making amends, Rick SHAVED. Surely, we're not in store for something dire in the moments ahead... surely. There's a fun letter below that asks about plot and character moments, and Robert talks a little bit about his process—something you all get to see first-hand in the Cutting Room Floor section. Aren't you Deluxe readers lucky? Hope you're enjoying all that precious insight; it wasn't always available! For now, some classic letters below, see you back here again soon!

Okay, I know we're putting out issues fast now. It seems like I'm doing a new letters column every week. Assuming there are no printer delays we will be putting out issues on a better than monthly schedule over the next few issues.

The statue by Clayburn Moore has been completed and should be available in stores very soon, I'm think over the next few months. The second piece of the diorama, an extra zombie coming after Rick has just been sculpted and painted and it's damn awesome. When the whole thing is done and can be put together it's going to be sweet.

When it's all done it'll be a cool scene of Rick facing off against three separate zombies. Cool stuff. Clayburn Moore is a genius.

Now, let's dive into the old mailbag and see what's what.

Robert,

I got into your book because I was bored. To tell you the truth, I really don't like comics very much. I liked "Wolverine: Origins" when that came out, which I also read out of boredom, but I usually don't give comics a chance. I was at my friend's house, I had just finished shooting a scene for an independent film I've been working on, I didn't have anything else to do, and my friend, was ironically enough, acting like a zombie. Let's just say he smokes Marlboro Greens more than he probably should. Anyway, so I was looking around for something to do, I mean, he had no cable, he didn't want to play Smash Bros, and I didn't want to go home because I knew the moment I got there, I would start editing the scene and I really wanted a break, so finally, I saw a few graphic novels sitting on the coffee table. They read "The Walking Dead" and they were volumes one through four. I figured "what the hell, I'll just flip through some pages. It's better than nothing." I flipped through the first four or so pages of the first issue and suddenly my mind nagged me to go back and actually read them, so I did, and to make a long story shorter, I've been hooked ever since.

Recently, I was finally able to catch up to all the released issues and, mark my words, one day, you or your agent will get a call from me where I will ask to have a meeting about making "The Walking Dead" into a live action feature film, that is, if no one beats me to it. By then, I will have a little more credibility and higher stature as a film-maker. It's your story telling, I feel so drawn to it, so immersed by it, and what makes it so bizarre is that you are able to do this through a medium that I personally don't really even like. To me, comic books have always reminded me of looking through story boards, which is work to me. Not my cup of tea, but your work is different. I just wanted to let you know that you are working on such an amazing project, that even a person that cares not for the medium, loves it still.

That has got to count for something. Oh, out of curiosity, hypothetically speaking, if a film version of your story were to be made, would you rather it be in black and white? I've thought about this a lot, and to me, it would make for a nice contrasting style. I know it probably wouldn't be as marketable or distributable in the eyes of a run of the mill Hollywood studio, but

artistically, I would rather see it sans color, like the book. It would also make all the special effects more convincing, and seeing as how there is so much blood in it, it might be the only way to get out of having an NC-17 rating.

Yeah, I don't really know. It'd be neat if it were in black and white, and you've got some valid reasons and benefits listed here, but I'm really not sure. If I had my druthers I'd certainly at least push for washed-out color, like Saving Private Ryan but maybe even a little closer to gray.

I was also wondering, what cover art for TWD do you like the best? The cover art for issue nine is my favorite as far as composition, style, color, and even beauty, but I love the symbolism, irony, and dichotomy shown in the cover for issue 21, especially by the addition of that one lone butterfly (which is probably what Carl and Sophia are looking at).

I really like Tony's covers to 23 and 24 quite a bit. Charlie and Cliff's cover to issue 28 is one of my all-time favorites for sure. It's always changing but for now I'd probably have to go with 33 being my favorite but the covers for 44-48 are goddamn stunning. You'll all see them very soon. They're great.

Mostly, I just wanted to let you know, that from a fellow storyteller to another, I really admire your work, I am drawn to it so much that it's hard for me to think about it objectively. I care about these characters man. Anyway, I hope you print this, if you do, I'll get to keep it as a memento of the first pseudo-conversation we had prior to hopefully working with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Chuck Meré

Okay, you've got my contact info future-Spielberg. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Mr. Kirkman,

I've been reading Walking Dead since the very first comic, so I'm a longtime faithful reader. I know that you've been getting a lot of heat concerning the rape and later retribution of Michonne. I thought that I would give you a female view on this subject... and I'm not just writing as a female reader, but also as a rape survivor.

First of all... to all those men who wrote in complaining that you "took" power away from Michonne during the rape scene (which actually occurred off-screen) - the fact is, that you were showing the character of the Governor trying to take power from Michonne. Guess what? Rape happens every day. Its ugly and its vicious, and its plain evil... but it happens to white women, black women, Asian women, Hispanic women.... well, you get my point? The rapist has no conscience... he doesn't care about the pain and suffering that he is putting his victim through. And it's a pain that lasts long after the actual act of the rape is done. One thing I've learned is that you gradually go from being a rape victim into a rape survivor. It's not an easy process and it usually takes years, but the thing is, you're never the same person again.

I want you to know, that as a rape survivor, I was not offended by Michonne's rape. The setting of the story is post-apocalypse, with all the barriers of civilization being broken down. Have your readers forgotten the quick breakdown of civil behavior during the aftermath of the Katrina hurricane? In reading your last comic, I think that the point you are trying to drive home is that man - and woman - can quickly lose grip of their humanity in extreme situations. Unfortunately, there are predators in the world who don't even need the pressure of a catastrophe to make them into rapists and murderers.

As for Michonne's retribution.... yes, it was extremely violent, yet these readers who are complaining had no problem with zombies eating somebody's intestines or even the Governor hacking off Rick's hand? I don't condone extreme violence, but I also know that its been a part of human history since the dawn of time.

Would I wish to have the same opportunity for retribution with my own rapist? At times, I do have a fantasy of him burning in hell.... He was a serial rapist, and only he and God knows how many women he's hurt in his lifetime... but I don't know if I would want to be carrying the emotional burden of killing - or even just torturing - another human being with me. Yet, in Michonne's situation, there is no longer police to serve and protect, or courts of law to set up trial and punishment. The Governor had hurt so many people in the past, without a single

thought of the pain he was inflicting on others, so I personally have no problems with Michonne acting as judge and jury in this case. The only alternative is her just running away earlier with Rick, leaving the Governor there to continue to hurt other people. And I'm not saying that she did it just out of a sense of protecting others - she definitely was making it personal retribution. But who can say how they would personally react in such extreme circumstances?

After what I call my Bad Incident, I couldn't even bear to watch violent movies for years - including my beloved horror movies. It took time for me to recover - I'd grown up watching all the classic horror movies - but now I often see horror movies as a commentary on our own society.

I think you really hit home with this when Rick hit Martinez with the camper without a second thought. Martinez should have not been so sneaky and had instead talked to the group about perhaps helping the women and children left at his camp, instead of just running off, so he does share some responsibility for his own death. The fact that Rick later questions his actions and his lack of remorse, asking if he what he's done is evil... that is what truly separates the type of person he is from the Governor.

Okay... besides all this "deep" stuff about the story and characters... I want to say that I LOVE your comic, and I'm glad that you are not afraid to tackle controversial storylines and characters. Please keep up the good work!

Valeria

Thank you very much for writing in and sharing your experience. I really appreciate it.

Dear Robert,

One of the main reasons I find The Walking Dead to be the greatest book out is the questions of morality which are raised on nearly a monthly basis. In a world populated by constant horror and death, ethics clearly change. Most recently, Rick's murder of Martinez displayed a sort of kill or be killed ethics. As a police officer, Rick represented one of the last standing enforcers of the old world's sense of right and wrong. However, at this point in the story, the issue of right and wrong is nearly gone completely. While most people's sense of morality allows for one to value the life of their family over others, I get the feeling that Rick would perform the most heinous sorts of acts to ensure his family's safety. Yet even as Rick's actions become less and less noble in the traditional sense of morality, I still think he's doing the "right" thing. As a student of philosophy, these gray areas fascinate me.

I was wondering if you have had the chance to read The Road (2006) by Cormac McCarthy. The book has many parallels to TWD. The story follows a father and son trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic world. While there are no flesh eating zombies, the father and son must escape constant danger from starvation and fend off attacks from bands of cannibals. At one point in the story, the author even refers to the father and son as "the walking dead." Like TWD, hope has been nearly destroyed by the state of the world, and morality has been whittled down to bare survivalism. It's a great, quick read, and judging by your work, I think you'd appreciate it.

Thanks for getting me into comics.
Greg Theilmann, San Diego, CA

The Road, huh? I'll have to check it out.

Robert Kirkman,

"issue 37-- which will be IN STORES before the end of MARCH." Not that I'm bitching but why do you set yourself up for the readers to fill up Letter Hacks with complaints about the book not being on time?

Anyway, great comic book! I've been with you since issue 8 and am never disappointed with the story or art. You have several very good comics out every month (well, almost) and for that I don't mind the wait. Please, keep up the good work.

Matt Coppins

Well, there's not much I can do once a book is out of my hands. There are a lot of times when things seem 100% ready to happen... and then don't. For instance, I said 39 would be out two weeks after 38. Now, I turned it in two weeks after 38, so in a perfect world it would have shipped two weeks after 38. But I forgot it was around the time of the big Comic-Con

International in San Diego. During this time everyone and their brother is printing up everything but the kitchen sink for the con. So 39 got lost in the shuffle and as I type this, still isn't out, but looks like it's going to be three or even four weeks after issue 38. I'm hoping for four.

Now, 39 isn't even out yet and I'm writing this letters column to send in with issue 40, with 39 pushed back a bit, this issue should be in stores sooner than a month after issue 39, but y'know... I don't know for sure.

I get excited too, that's what it really burns down to. I like to get these books out and I try to give you letters column readers a heads up. I really should stop, though... it's getting ridiculous. So I'm not going to be making predictions anymore. I'm just going to try and turn the books in as fast as I can and keep working.

We'll see how that works out.

Dear Kirkman:

Greetings and salutations, I recently had a fest with your Walking Dead, from №1 to №36 last night.

I usually spend some time with my friends, mostly rolling polyhedrons, watching geeky movies, drinking coffee and talking about you (yeah, you) and your colleagues. That's how I knew that the Ultimate Cable guy had made a comic book about zombies, survival horror and stuff.

At first, I must confess, didn't have much faith because all the zombie comics I had read in the past were pretty ugly (I mean, Resident Evil comic books, anyone?), but I when I knew that was a B/W, old- school, made by a zombie geek comic; well I had at least to see it.

And well, what can I say? I just loved it!

I know that many readers can say at least the same, but the reason of writing these lines is to support you in the now controversial issue about the raping, the racism and the pornographic violence in your comic (?).

Please don't listen seriously to all that aggressive words from the kind of people who need the Comic Code Authority to decide for them what can and what cannot read, I like to think that we're all grown up guys who can difference the reality from the fiction.

I could say something about the behavior of ordinary human beings in extreme situations and illustrate it with the raping camps and other aberrations proper of the wartimes, but I don't like to make politics of an entertainment product which is not oriented to do it. And it won't be anything we haven't heard before.

So what I want to say is thank you for being honest with yourself, your characters and us, your devoted public.

Sincerely,
Juan M. Trillo

PS: Please forgive the broken English.

Honestly didn't notice any.

PS2: I loved the Christmas story in issue №34, and it made me think: what about a backup story of each main character before the zombie infestation? Like an average day in the life of (not like LOST, but well, yeah, exactly like LOST). Think about it.

Yeah, I'm not going to be purposefully cribbing something from LOST any time soon. At least not until issue 43. I do try to keep this book as original as possible.

Thanks for writing, I plan to stick to my guns on all issues. Don't worry.

Dear Captain Kirkman,

This issue was pretty okay, dawg. In Idolese, the beginning was "karaoke", but the last half or more was "magic". I kinda enjoyed your little backstory
in the letters column this ish! 1990? Why such a late bloomer? Didn't most people Grow Up Reading comics? Like me for instance! If you were born in '78 or '79, I was probably reading comics b4 you were Born. I dunno if you answered this question in №37's column, but I'd like to ask what really got you into comics specifically...was it one series, a particular issue? My older brother got me reading comics by, well, giving me some of his to read; probably the only nice thing he ever did for me! I guess if I'd have to go to a particular series that

jump-started my collecting career, it'd be Avengers.

My dad got me into it. I'd read a comic here or there before sixth grade but I was really into baseball cards. The baseball card shop in my small Kentucky town also sold comics. So one time when my dad had taken me there--he bought about 12 consecutive issues of IRON MAN. It was the Armor Wars II Mandarin/ Fin Fang Foom stuff by John Byrne and John Romita Jr. He had been a huge fan of The Metal Men when he was a kid and he thought IRON MAN was a modern offshoot of that book. I stumbled onto those books and next time I went into that store... I bought some comics with my baseball cards.

If there's still time I'd like you to warn the TWD characters taking the van to look for the...place with more weaponry, that even if they Do find it they might not have a prison to come back to! And the Woodbury guys already are searching and have their weapons. Funny that Walking Dead and JLA Classified have the exact same issue count, huh? Both at №37. Funnier still, they're making a big deal out of Carlos D'Anda and Kid Amazo.

There was a wedding this issue. The priest-guy.. Rick?..even read from the Bible. I guess you do that at weddings. Most religious thing I've seen in this book ever. In the flashback at the beginning--I Think it was a flashback--Shane and Lori were talking about the government? Was that b4 the plague (or whatever) had spread too badly, or what? It occurs to me that no actual zombies, or walking dead guys, were used this issue!

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

The flashback in issue 37 continued from the flashback in issue 7. So it was during the time Rick was in a coma, but after the zombie plague had started.

Robert, (is "Ye, Gods" played out?)

I recently fired off an email to Invincible (LOVE IT), and now, after having just read №37 of TWD, I'm sending one here. I used to write letters to comics when I was younger, but none were ever printed; however, due to the fact that you print more letters than anyone I've ever seen--and, that you answer them yourself--there was an incentive for me to sit at my computer and try again.

You're in luck. I'm thinking about printing your letter.

I'm 36 years old and have been a comic collector since the age of 12/13. Although I did get into the traditional superhero stuff e.g. Daredevil, Spider-man, etc. I also liked darker, more mysterious material, as well. When Frank Miller did his run on Daredevil with Mazzuchelli, it appealed to me so much more than the ad nauseum repetitions of a new super villain every issue with no true feeling of consequence. These days, titles like Sin City, 100 bullets, Criminal, etc. jazz me up a lot more than crossover after crossover of mindless men-in-tights drivel. This love for more adult oriented storytelling, combined with my love for horror movies and great advice from 2 wise, wise men (what's up, Neil and Chris!!) brought me to TWD.

I'd love to go on and on about how much fun I have reading this book, Robert, but it's nothing you haven't heard before. What I would like to address briefly is my continued hope that you will NEVER, EVER pull any punches or tame your material down because a bunch of sissy-boys might get offended or some sanctimonious pseudo-intellectual might send you some whiny screed on how this or that is a reflection of societal oppression blah, blah, blah. I'm referring, of course, to some of the reactions you got to your depiction of the whole Governor/Michonne situation. Especially, when some people tried to speak for your inner thoughts and beliefs, particularly by accusing you of being sexist/racist. I'm impressed by how you handled those letters by not collapsing into a heap of jelly and defending your story. This is a cruel world--both in the real world and, especially, in the TWD one--and bad things happen. It's unfortunately symptomatic of our PC society to label anything perceived as negative towards certain individuals/ groups as racist, etc. Not to overstate it, but how dare they pretend to know what you think, Robert, or, for that matter, what the rest of us do!

Anyways, I've got so much more to say to praise the unbelievable work that you, Charlie, Cliff and Rus are doing on this title, but I'd like to get printed, so here are some numbered questions:

I do print some letters that don't have questions... I swear.

1. Is Charlie as amped about doing this book forever as you yourself are? Man, I hope so. His artwork is EXACTLY how this book needs to look!

I wouldn't say he's as amped as me, but he's definitely on board for the long haul. I know he enjoys it but I wouldn't presume to have him on board for life. He's not going anywhere any time soon.

2. For the first time, in issue №37, we got somewhat of a flashback with Lori thinking about Shane. Does this mean you may use flashbacks to give us--FINALLY--some backstory on characters like Michonne? We're dying to read it, man!

The first flashback was actually at the beginning of issue 7. This is the second. I don't plan on using them too often but maybe every now and then—and only when the event ties in with what I've got going on in the main story.

3. In the interview at the back of №37, you mentioned that at the beginning you had the story mapped out up to its current position. Do you have the next 37 more or less figured out?

Oh, yeah. Definitely. There is also stuff that would be taking place way after this stuff happening now that I had planned in the beginning. It was a very rough outline but I always knew I was leading up to this stuff. And y'know, since then I've been plotting further and further ahead as I go along... of course— there's still stuff I always make up on the fly while I'm writing... it keeps things fresh.

4. Will Carl ever take his hat off? Dale, I understand, because it designates him clearly as "Dale", but Carl?

He takes it off from time to time.

5. Can you promise us loyal readers that you will tell the story you want to tell for us grown-ups here, and not balk at showing terrible things? I know you haven't yet, but I hope the whole tempest over the torture thing hasn't left you gun-shy.

Trust me, there's more to come on that front. By the time we reach issue 50 it'll be clear that I'm not pulling any punches.

Thank you for your time and for doing your part to keep comics a legitimate medium!

By the way, I also love the Ant-man title and anxiously look forward to The Wolf-man!!

Jonathan Radmer

Yay, The Irredeemable Ant-Man *and* The Astounding Wolf-Man*! Very cool, thanks for reading.*

Kirkman--

Issue №37! Yay!

Yay-fuckin'-yay-yay! Really beautiful work, all around. QUESTION! Do all the character moments get written at the same speed as the plot-driven stuff? Or do they accrue over time?

Good stuff,
Andrew Garcia-Price

Hm. Well, the issues themselves in script form get written chronologically almost as you would read it. I start on page one and write until I'm on page 22 but before that there's a plot stage where I map everything out on paper. The character stuff is scrawled out in notes and sometimes things get shifted back into another issue to safe space or so I can lead up to a moment. The plot stuff and the character stuff is more often than not just written at the same time as I go along. Does that explain it at all?

It would be very cool if you guys decide to include a poster in one of the upcoming issues.

I really want one.

Good job guys, this comic is great!

Jose Pinal

Well, there's not a poster contained in this issue, but there IS an ad for one. You'll find it shortly after this letters column. You can buy it in whatever store you purchased this comic. Tell them Dave sent you!

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I am writing this to let you know that I love this book. I just recently got on board and started with the trades and quickly got caught up so now I'm up to issue 37. This series is one of the best out there! I think one of the better sequences I've read thus far is the one with Rick questioning his humanity after he killed Martinez who was essentially spying for the governor and his bitches. I loved it and it spoke to me. I could conceive of myself, put in a similar situation, doing the exact same thing for my family. Making those choices wouldn't be so tough once you put it in perspective.

I also have a gripe to pick with all those people who wrote in and complained about the extended torture scene with Michonne. I don't get what they are upset about at all. The book is called The Walking Dead not The Walking Unliving Enjoying Lunch In Your Garden. *(but maybe it should be? -Robert)* First and foremost this is a zombie book by the title alone. One should expect all the violence and agony that goes into something like that. And like you said, if people get turned off by one book then what's that say about them? I myself loved the torture scene and I felt it was very gratifying in every respect. You made the governor a complete prick and we, well most of us, wanted to see that extended torture scene to see him get his comeuppance. I feel that those people who wrote in complaining about it are part of the conservative America that I despise. I mean come on, if pushing the boundaries with some sex scenes isn't going to set off alarms with these people why should a torture scene? The way I see it is it's hypocritical of them. Comic artists and writers have been fighting the good fight for freedom of expression for a long time and you can't get your panties in a bunch with a title such as this if you have a problem with a little violence. I say keep up the good work and giving us great stories month in and month out.

Well, in defense of the people who balked at the horror... this series, according to the sales figures, is reaching a pretty broad audience. I've gotten mail from people who just read Marvel books who have given this title a shot. So, we're not ALL horror fans here, who are used to seeing and hearing far worse than what's portrayed here in our favorite movies.

And that's okay. I'd like this book to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. And it's COOL that stuff in this book can make people flinch and respond so strongly. Doesn't mean I'm going to quit doing such things, just to appease those fans... just like I'm not going to put in more gore and more zombie action just to appease those fans.

This book is what it is, and really, the most important member of the audience is myself. Meaning, if I don't like it, I can't write it... so thus far I've just been doing what interests ME at whatever given moment and I'll probably just continue doing that, because that keeps me interested in the series and keeps me interested in writing scripts.

Keeping Charlie interested isn't a bad thing either, but I think I'm doing that as well.

So anyway, I don't mind the crazy response from fans. At the end of the day, it just means people are vested in the series and sucked into the story enough to garner a reaction... and really, that's more than I could have ever hoped for with this book. So it's all good.

That said, to reiterate about the interactions with Rick, Tyreese, and everyone else there it's just pure magic. I read these books now to see what happens next to these people because you've made me care about them. The zombies are an afterthought almost, because the real drama is what's happening behind those walls.

Heh—some issues they're certainly an afterthought for me!

Thanks again for taking the time to read this and I can't wait to see what Lori tells Rick in 38! I've got goosebumps already!

Sincerely,
Gabriel

Well, I hope it went the way you DIDN'T expect it to. Thanks for writing.

That's all the time we have here at Letter Hacks central. Be on the lookout yesterday for issue 41. We're incorporating brand new time machine technology to get you that issue BEFORE this one. This time I swear! We're on time, baby!!

Sigh.

See you next issue.

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 40

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD (40) JUNIO. 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42

(1) LORI COGE A LA NIÑA -- ES PRECIOSA - ES PERFECTA!

(2) IRRUMPEN CON DALE A CUESTAS.

(3) "VAMOS A AMPUTARLE LA PIERNA!" RICK, MENCIONA QUE ALICE EVITÓ QUE SE LE INFECTARA LA MANO

(4) MÁS CAOS CON LA PIERNA — CORTAR CARA DE RICK SALPICADA DE SANGRE.

(5) DALE SE DESMAYA.

(6) DESCARGAN EL CAMIÓN A LA MAÑANA SIGUIENTE.

(7) PROVISIONES DE ALIMENTO -- TODO ESO.

(8) RICK MONTANDO LA CUNA. (¿CON LA AYUDA DE CARL?)

(9) ALICE DESPIERTA A DALE. ESTÁ ANDREA ALICE: "SIENTO HABERTE DESPERTADO." OS DEJARÉ A SOLAS.

(10) ANDREA EXPLOTA, "ERES UN HOMBRE MAYOR -- NO PUEDES HACER ESTO!" ERES LENTO -- DÉBIL -- ¿EN QUÉ COJONES ESTABAS PENSANDO? LE GOLPEA -- DALE: "TRANQUILA, CARIÑO." TERMINA CON ANDREA ALTERADA, ROMPE A LLORAR. SIN HABLAR. SE ABRAZAN DALE:")"

(11) LORI ESTÁ DANDO EL PECHO PRESENTAN LA NIÑA A CARL. RICK: "NOS HA PARECIDO OÍR QUE ESTABAS DESPIERTA."

(12) ~~¿A TODA PÁGINA?~~ HERSHEL RECOGIENDO VERDURAS -- CARL: "NUNCA ESTARÁ ASUSTADA." SUDANDO: SI EL CALENDARIO DE ANDREA ES PRECISO -- ES JUNIO." CREERÁ QUE ESTO ES NORMAL. AUNQUE ME PARECE AGOSTO. ESTO PARECE EL INFIERNO -- BILLY

(13) LA NIÑA TIENE DOS SEMANAS. HERSHEL LE SERMONEA ACERCA DEL INFIERNO.

RICK + LORI HABLAN DE LO BIEN QUE SE PORTA.

(14) CUANDO DALE SE DESPIERTA MIRA LA PIERNA NO COMO CARL.

EN SUEÑOS TENGO LAS DOS PIERNAS -- Y

(15) ANDREA LE TRAE SU BASTÓN. TODOS LOS DÍAS... ME DESPIERTO + LO RECUERDO.

(16) RICK SE AFEITA -- GLENN SE RAPA LA CABEZA -- HABLAN DE LA VIDA DE CASADO.

(17) ESCENA DE CAROL TENGO QUE HACER ALGO CON CAROL.

(18) (19) (20) PRÁCTICA DE TIRO.

(21) APARECE DALE -- EMPIEZA A CHARLAR CON RICK.

(22) DALE: "TODO ES GENIAL." ARMAS, NIÑA, PIERNA, GENTE,

(N) DALE OBSERVANDO. TIRA EL ANZUELO PRISIÓN TRANQUILA.

(N) ANDREA + TYREESE ~~RICK: NO PUEDO~~ SONRIENDO -- CHARLANDO EN LA CLASE DE TIRO.

~~(1) PRÁCTICA DE TIRO.~~

~~(2) DALE SE DESPIERTA -- HABLA~~

~~(3) LORI DA EL PECHO.~~

(4) ¿CAROL? ¿SOPHIA ECHA DE MENOS A CARL?

~~(5) ¿HERSHEL RECOLECTANDO?~~

~~(6) CADA VEZ HACE MÁS CALOR!~~

~~(7) RICK SE AFEITA.~~

(8) DALE LE DICE A ANDREA QUE PUEDE ACOSTARSE CON TYREESE. — ELLA LE TRAE MULETAS.

PRÓXIMO NÚMERO

(51) PORTADA -- CARL EN BRAZOS DE RICK -- RICK SOSTIENE UNA ESCOPETA -- HACE CALOR, ESTÁ SUDOROSO.

LOS DEMÁS QUIEREN MARCHARSE... LO DECIDEN EN GRUPO.

CÓMIC 41 - ó 42: DALE: "YO NO SÉ LUCHAR -- ME LARGO DE AQUÍ."

Mirad, empezaré diciendo que... el Robert Kirkman de 43 años está ahondando en el trabajo que hizo el Robert Kirkman de 28 años durante esta serie de números. ¿De la escena de un nacimiento se pasa directamente a una amputación, y se le da el broche con Lori poniéndole alegremente el nombre a su hija? Esa escena sucede. ¿Está bien que felicite a mi yo del pasado si también admito que me hace sentir como si hubiera perdido mi toque en los últimos años? Me parece que estas entradas están revelando demasiado de mi lado neurótico e inseguro.

Estoy seguro que ODIÉ estos números inmediatamente después de escribirlos.

Lo que sí puedo revelar es que la frase de Alice sobre lo loca que fue la noche, incluida "vendarle las costillas a Glenn", se agregó a última hora. Probablemente cuando el número ya se había dibujado. Se me olvidó que había añadido la escena en la que Glenn recibe un disparo. Recordad, eso no estaba en la trama y se incluyó durante la etapa de guion para hacer la escena más emocionante. Así que... se me olvidó este asunto. Por suerte, hay un buen salto temporal de dos semanas en este número, por lo que la herida de bala de la armadura... no es un problema después.

Lo mejor de los cómics es que siempre puedes reescribir por completo las escenas después de que se hayan dibujado si alguna vez lo necesitas. Se puede arreglar cualquier cosa en el último minuto... bueno, casi cualquier cosa.

¡Anda, mirad la trama de ahí a la izquierda! ¡¡¡Todo está APRETUJADO!!! Claramente, estaba tratando de incluir MUCHAS COSAS en este número. Tal vez... solo tal vez, cuando planeas arcos de seis números, los primeros dos o tres números del arco son algo... pausados, y conforme llegas a los tres últimos números del arco... tienes que hacerlo realmente bien para meter todo en el volumen. No estoy seguro de que sea lo que haya pasado aquí, pero desde luego lo parece.

En la parte superior derecha, ¿tan solo... enumero los números de este volumen como un idiota? Podía haber escrito 37-42... pero no lo hice. Oh, y mirad, creo que esta fue la primera trama que escribí el mes que se suponía que debía salir. Consultándolo por Internet, este número se publicó en agosto, así que o bien el número salió con retraso (eso aún ocurría a veces en aquella época, no fue hasta más adelante que la serie empezaría a cumplir PERFECTAMENTE con los plazos y duraría hasta el final), o me equivoqué de mes.

NOTAS DE PÁGINA:

1-4: Todo esto fue exactamente según lo previsto en la trama.

5: El desmayo de Dale se incluyó en la página 4, así que pude terminar la escena aquí, lo que llevó a que Lori le pusiera el nombre a Judith. ¿De dónde he sacado ese nombre? Seguramente de mi filtro de correo no deseado, donde busco nombres en los que no pensaría. Tengo una agenda de contactos de unos 20 nombres que me limito a usar una y otra vez. Con nombres como Allen, Glenn, Carol, Andrea... por lo que para diversificar, empecé a ojear mi carpeta de correo no deseado en busca de nombres falsos destinados a engañarme para hacerme creer que había recibido un correo de verdad.

6-7: Se convirtieron en una doble página. ¿Por qué? Pues porque me pareció que molaba. Es posible que lo use demasiado a menudo, pero creo que resultan muy útiles las páginas dobles con imágenes amplias enormes en la parte superior y atestada de paneles debajo. Os habréis dado cuenta de que ese diseño se utiliza con frecuencia en todos los cómics que he hecho en mi vida.

8: Esa flecha significa que me planteé pasar esta escena a la página 9, pero luego no lo hice.

9: Esta escena se agregó más tarde como punto de partida para la página 10.

10: El método de hacer la trama "aprovechando todo al máximo". Con el tiempo, veréis una de esas tramas con cada centímetro de la página garabateada y toda clase de flechas dibujadas que apuntan a las cosas que deberían estar conectadas porque no había suficiente espacio.

11: ¿Podéis seguir esto? Si leéis desde arriba, la frase atraviesa la página, y luego si necesito escribir más, sigo en la línea de abajo, pero procuro apretujarlo todo a la derecha para seguir teniendo sitio para las siguientes páginas, aunque cuando hago las páginas siguientes, todo se fusiona. La frase completa es, "Lori está dando el pecho. Presentan la niña a Carl. Rick: "Nos ha parecido oír que estabas despierta." Carl: "Nunca estará asustada. Creerá que esto es normal." Todo lo demás de alrededor es para otras páginas.

12: Podéis ver cómo esto envuelve la página anterior hasta llegar a "Hershel le sermonea acerca del infierno".

13: Menos mal que este número sigue la trama tan estrechamente que puedo divagar sobre cómo leer esta trama. Esto es fascinante, ¿verdad? La verdad es que me pregunto cuánta gente realmente lee estas entradas en lugar de simplemente disfrutar del arte de Charlie coloreado por el estimado Dave McCaig, y luego se saltan este material.

15: En algún momento, me di cuenta de que las muletas iban a funcionar mucho mejor que un bastón. Veréis el "Ella le trae muletas" más abajo en la página.

17: Tengo que hacer algo con Carol. Síp. Me dejo espacio para pensarlo más tarde.

18-20: Aquí no hay ninguna nota sobre tontear con la posible relación entre Andrea/Tyreese, pero es evidente que eso era parte del plan.

21-22: Un final más tranquilo de lo habitual, pero, no obstante, satisfactorio.

En la parte inferior derecha, veréis mi lista de verificación para el número. Sabía que quería esas escenas en el número, pero no sabía en qué orden irían ni cuánto espacio ocuparía cada escena. Veréis que hubo al menos una que se pasó al próximo número.

A lo largo de la parte inferior de esta trama, veréis ideas para futuros números, esto pasará cada vez más a medida que profundicemos en la serie, así que cuidado con los spoilers si queréis leer esta serie por primera vez.

PORTADA
ARTHUR ADAMS
COLORES NATHAN FAIRBAIRN

"No tienes ***ni idea*** de lo que estás haciendo."

DAVID FINCH

CHARLIE ADLARD

NÚMERO 41

¡DISPONIBLE 15 DE JUNIO, 2022!

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CHARLIE ADLARD* & *CLIFF RATHBURN

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